

NEW ENGLAND NOTE

*UTRICULARIA INFLATA* WALTER  
(LENTIBULARIACEAE) IN MASSACHUSETTS

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On 11 October 1990, I traveled to Federal Pond, on the border of Carver and Plymouth in Plymouth County, Massachusetts to verify a report of black spruce, *Picea mariana* (Miller) BSP. According to Austin Mason, Regional Forester with the state Division of Forests and Parks, a small stand of this spruce occurred on the east shore of the pond. If verified, it would represent only the second extant population of *P. mariana* in southeastern Massachusetts. After a short search, four small trees were found in deep peat at the edge of a cove just within the boundary of Plymouth, but none elsewhere, including several peat islands offshore.

Of even more interest, however, were a few flowering bladderworts in another cove that obviously were related to *Utricularia radiata* Small, a common species in acid lakes and ponds in Massachusetts, but which were much larger. The scape of one measured 23 cm and the floats spanned 18 cm! Particularly distinct, in comparison to specimens of *U. radiata*, were the very large flowers, long floats that tapered to the axis, thick peduncle and stem, and massive system of bladder-bearing branches. These plants keyed easily in Godfrey and Wooten (1981) and Schnell (1976) to *U. inflata* Walter, a species heretofore unknown north of southern New Jersey. A return visit on 20 October found *U. inflata* abundant around much of Federal Pond, especially in the lee of peat islands. Associates included *Utricularia purpurea* Walter, *Nymphaea odorata* Aiton, *Myriophyllum heterophyllum* Michaux, *M. humile* (Raf.) Morong, *Lobelia dortmanna* L., *Juncus militaris* Bigelow, and *Scirpus subterminalis* Torrey. Specimens (BAS 5317 and 5332) have been deposited at GH, MASS and in my personal herbarium.

This discovery marks the 13th *Utricularia* for Massachusetts and New England. As with other disjunctions, one must consider the possibility of human-aided introduction, particularly in this case since Federal Pond is used as a reservoir for a cranberry growing firm. Mr. David Parks of the Federal Furnace Cranberry Company assured me that although New Jersey and Massachu-

setts have extensive cranberry cultivation, there is no movement of plant material or soil between the states; rarely a piece of machinery may be transported. Griffith (1913) stated that Federal Pond was created in 1793 by damming Crane Brook, in order to mine bog iron. Certainly there has been ample time since then for propagules to be transported, most likely via waterfowl or herons. One might argue that since there are hundreds of ponds in southeastern Massachusetts, *U. inflata* should be widespread. However, there are dozens of rare species that defy such logic, occurring in but a tiny fraction of the apparently suitable habitat in the Plymouth/Cape Cod area. Such is true of some of the other inhabitants of Federal Pond: *Carex lanuginosa* Michaux (here at its sole southeastern Massachusetts site), *Carex striata* Michaux (formerly *C. walteriana* Bailey), red-bellied turtle (*Chrysemys rubriventris*), and the black spruce.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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